Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 021327 ORIGIN SS-15

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P 261926Z JAN 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 1528 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA DJIBOUTI JIDDA KHARTOUM LONDON MOGADISCIO PARIS TEHRAN BONN JAN 15.

QUOTE CONFIDENTIAL ROME 1528

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, ET, SO, FR, IT, NI, UR, UK, GW, PDEV, PBOR SUBJECT: FIVE-POWER MEETING ON HORN OF AFRICA

REF: STATE 18370

1. MFA DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS RACHELE TOLD EMBOFF JAN. 25 THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECISIONS OF JAN#721 FIVE-POWER MEETING IN WASHUNGTON, ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN ADDIS ABABA HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SOUND OUT ETHIOPIANS ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO OGADEN CONFLICT. WHILE MFA DOES NOT YET CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 021327

HAVE REPORT OF RESULTS OF AMBASSADOR'S EFFORTS, ITALIANS ARE NOT OPTIMISITC THAT ETHIOPIANS ARE READY TO MODIFY THEIR DEMAND FOR FULL SOMALI WITHDRAWAL BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS. AS TO EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT, RACHELE CHARACTERIZED ETHIOIAN ACCEPTANCE OF IDEA OF AUTONOMOUS OGADEN WITHIN ETHIOPIAN FRAMEWORK AS "NOTHING NEW".

2. AS TO FIVE-POWER MEETING, RACHELE, WHO HAD HOPED TO ATTEND MEETING HIMSELF, WAS PLEASED THAT IT HAD TAKEN PLACE AND THOUGHT STATEMENT ISSUED AFTERWARD WAS BALANCED, LOW-KEY, AND "JUST RIGHT". HE SAID THAT DESPITE THEIR LACK OF OPTIMISM ABOUT POSSIBLITY OF EARLY NEGOTIATIONS, ITALIANS INTEND TO CONTINUE EFFORTS -- BILATERALLY, IN FIVE-POWER CONTEXT, AND THROUGH EC -- TO PROMOTE SOLUTION GARDNER UNQUOTE VANCE

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